

The Joe Buckley land went to the Ochletree family, then to John Gay and Joe McNeill and is now owned by Lewis Gay.

The homestead east of the river was given to Joshua Buckley. This was divided as follows: Margaret and Charles Young, Jane and Columbus Silva, Andy Rose, and Clinton Courtney.

During this generation all the tracts once owned by Joshua Buckley II were bought back with the exception of a few acres owned by the heirs of W. M. Young. Several acres have been added to the homestead; namely, the McCoy farm at the head of Williams River and 575 acres of cut-over timberland east of the farm.

Joshua Buckley II was a minister at heart rather than a farmer. With his large family and small income it became necessary to sell parts of the farm. He sold the lower part of the river bottom to George Overholt and some of the hill land to Charles Young and Clinton Courtney. The upper part of the bottom was given to daughter Jane and Columbus Silva. This left only a small section with the home. Later this was mortgaged for debt, and at the time his son John took over the management of the farm, all was gone or mortgaged for all it was worth.

John began to gather the land together again and to pay off the debts. This was during the depression of the 1880's. He worked as a carpenter, helping to build the store for Daniel McNeill. His wages were seventy-five cents a day. Later the lumber interests began to cut the timber on the Greenbrier River and float the logs to Ronceverte to the sawmill. John soon learned to guide the arks down the river and became the pilot of the arks. This was a job of considerable responsibility and paid a little better wages than the other men got. However, it could not be done during the winter months.

Several companies were buying tracts of land and timber in Pocahontas County. Many of these companies knew little or nothing of the country. John learned to estimate timber and would make estimates for a fee. This gave him a good income, and it could be done during the winter. In this way he could work almost all the year.

During this time much of the work on the farm was done by the wife and children. Since John was able to be at home at some time during each week, he could manage the farm quite well. He soon paid the mortgage on the home.

About 1897 when the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad began to build the Greenbrier Division there was yet a debt of two hundred dollars, which was owed to Columbus Silva. In order to give a deed for the right-of-way for the railroad,

Joshua, then the owner, deeded eight acres of land lying between the homestead and the Overholt tract to Silva. This was known as the "Little Orchard".

In 1906 Aumiller Brothers were looking for a tract of timber to cut. They contacted John Buckley, knowing that he could estimate timber and that he had cruised the timber on his own lands as well as that on the Silva and Young (then Thomas) farms.

The Aumillers made an offer based on the estimate which had been made. That part belonging to Silva was the best grade of timber, and they offered one thousand dollars for it.

John then began to try to buy the Silva farm. They offered to sell all except the "Little Orchard" for twelve hundred dollars. The deal was made and the timber was sold, leaving a balance of two hundred dollars outstanding. By this time Jay Buckley was old enough to work on public works, and he and his father went to work and paid off the outstanding debt.

In the meantime, the Overholt farm had been bought by Charles Young and sold to James Cook. After Walter Graham married Addie Buckley, he and Jay Buckley bought the lower end of the river bottom from Cook. The "Little Orchard" remained in the hands of the Silva girls (Annd and Myrtle) until 1925 when this tract was sold to Jay Buckley for eight hundred dollars.

The tract owned by Courtneys and Youngs was acquired by William Buckley about 1933. The Andy Rose farm was bought by William and Ralph Buckley. This brought the original farm together again.

The land on the head of Williams River was bought by Jay and William Buckley as a place to graze cattle. The first place bought was the John W. Sheets farm known as the "Dutch Bottom". This was later traded for the McCoy Place".

After the timber was cut from the "Big Survey" to the east of the original farm, Jay bought five hundred seventy-five acres of this cut-over timber land. He paid about three dollars per acre for this. This completed the farm as it stands today. It consists of about fourteen hundred acres.

THE BUCKLEYS AT SWAGO

The first account we have of the Buckley family was in Ireland at the time of the "Bulldog Kings". This family was of Protestant faith. At that time the Roman Catholics were in power there, and the Buckleys, being persecuted for their faith, moved along with many others to Belgium and Holland.

When word came to them that the colony of Virginia had been established, these families became interested in coming to America. They returned to England and made arrangements to sail for the New World.

They arrived at the mouth of the James River in 1621. The early settlers at Jamestown had become discouraged and had set sail for England. The two boats met at the mouth of the river, and the newcomers persuaded the early settlers to return. In this way the Buckley family lays claim to being among the first permanent settlers of Virginia.

Very little is known of the family from then until about the time of the Revolution. It is presumed that they with others worked their way westward to new lands and better hunting grounds.

About 1760 there were three brothers of the family at Winchester, Virginia. Two of them moved northwestward to what is now Ohio. The other one came across the mountain into the Southbranch of the Potomac, then south to its head and over into the Greenbrier Valley. This was Joshua.

He came down the river to what is now Hosterman and there found a family by the name of Collins. Joshua made his home with the Collins family until 1774. In 1773 he married the daughter Hannah. To them was born a son, Joe, on February 22, 1774.

Joshua had scouted the Greenbrier River Valley for a home about 1762 and took a grant for land. After his marriage to Hannah, she wrote a deed, and it was recorded in the Court House in Staunton, Virginia, in 1774.

On March 6, 1774, Joshua, with his family, arrived at the mouth of Swago Creek. Here he had found a spot where the Indians had cleared about two acres of land and had been raising corn. He built a lean-to shed against a large white-oak tree just above the highwater mark on the east side of the river about two hundred yards south of the mouth of Swago

Creek. He had brought with him his wife and son, a horse, and provisions enough to last until a crop could be raised.

Joshua made a trip to Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was there with General Washington. He was sent back to the valley as a scout for the army, and at the time of the Battle of Point Pleasant he was stationed at Gauley Bridge. If the Indians won the battle, a runner was to come to him, and he was to notify the settlers in the Greenbrier Valley to get into the fort at Lewisburg.

The white colony in Virginia had made a treaty with the Indians that they would not make settlements in the Ohio River Valley. The settlers in this section had persuaded the Governor of Virginia that the Greenbrier River flowed into the Atlantic Ocean. In this way they received their grants for land. These grants were known as "Tomahawk Grants". The grant for the Buckley lands was one of these and was signed by the King of England.

After moving to the mouth of Swago, three other children were born to Hannah and Joshua Buckley: John, Hettie, and Elizabeth.

The family cleared more of the bottom land and raised crops and livestock. Their chief source of income was from furs, for which they had a market. The family built a cabin directly opposite the mouth of the creek. When the children were grown, they married and settled nearby.

Hettie married George Kee and was given that part of the farm north of the Big Rocks in the river. Elizabeth married a Mr. McClure and moved to a farm at the end of Droop Mountain near where the railroad tunnel is now. Joe married Betty Gibson and was given the land around where Lewis Gay now lives.

John married Patsy Casebolt and lived on the west side of the river just opposite his father's home. When his father and mother became old, he moved to the east side of the river and built a house in the "Old Orchard" just north of where his father had built his cabin. John's family was born on the west side of the river, but later lived on the east side.

Joshua had given a plot of ground on the west side of the river for a church lot and a cemetery. At his death he and his wife Mary were buried there. This is the present site of Bethel Church. Their graves are just behind that structure.

Joshua Buckley II was born on the west side of the river on March 6, 1819. He farmed for a livelihood and also was the local Methodist minister. He disagreed with the leaders of the church as to its form of government and was one of the founders of the Methodist Protestant Church.

THE BUCKLEY MEETING HOUSE

When John Buckley married Patsy Casebolt about 1800, he built a house on the west side of the Greenbrier River. It was located just north of the mouth of Swago Creek and about two hundred feet back from the river's edge. At that time a few people had settled in the community, and they were invited to come to this house for worship.

As the community grew the house became too small to accommodate the crowds, and it was decided to build a church.

This building was located just south of the present Lower Church (Bethel). It was a log building and was large enough to accommodate a small congregation. This probably was built about 1825. This church was located on land donated by the Buckley family. The lot was about one-half acre in size. The lot was used as a cemetery for a long time and is still used for that purpose.

The church was known as "The Buckley Meeting House". The congregation was a member of the Methodist conference, and some of the ministers came from Hillsboro to hold services.

Joshua Buckley II, son of John, became a Methodist minister and preached at this church. He did not like the government of the Methodist church and joined the separation movement, which was to become the Methodist Protestant Church.

About 1875 the congregation became aware that the log church was too small to accommodate the congregation and that extensive repairs would have to be made before long. They decided to build a new church on the grounds of the log church. Most of the work on this church was done by local men without wages. The McNeill and Buckley families contributed most of the materials and labor. Jefferson Killingsworth was the chief foreman.

William McNeill and his brothers were good ax men. They chopped the trees for the frame, and John Buckley, who was good with the broad ax, finished the smoothing of the frame timbers.

Some other frame materials were cut on the Buckley farm at the head of the Thomas Hollow. This was fine poplar timber. The logs were hauled by oxen to the church site. This was done in April, and at one time the snow was so deep it worked through the ox bows.

These timbers were long enough to extend from one side of the church to the other. This is about twenty-four feet. One of these timbers when it dried split at one end. It then was necessary to bore a hole through it and insert a wooden pin.

The boards were cut on a "up and down" mill. This saw was like a crosscut saw and was worked up and down by water power. The finishings inside were done by hand planes.

This church is now known as Bethel and is being used by the Presbyterian congregation with the permission of the Buckley family. The lot when not used as a church ground reverts to the Buckley estate.

GENEALOGY OF THE BUCKLEY FAMILY 17-- to 1967

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) Joshua Buckley
Hannah Collins | John Buckley (2)
Joe Buckley (3)
Hettie Buckley Kee (4)
Elizabeth Buckley McClure (5)
William Buckley
Isaac Buckley |
| (2) John Buckley
Patsy Casebolt | Joshua Buckley (6)
Kate Buckley Friel (7)
Rachel Buckley McCollum |
| (3) Joe Buckley
Betty Gibson | No Children |
| (4) Hettie Buckley
George Kee | Joshua Buckley Kee (8)
Andrew Kee (9)
John Kee (10)
William Kee (11) |
| (5) Elizabeth Buckley
Arthur McClure | |
| William Buckley
Elizabeth Collison | |
| Isaac Buckley | |
| (6) Joshua Buckley
Lucinda Adkison | Mary Ellen Buckley Adkison (12)
Ruth Eliza Buckley (13)
Elizabeth Susan Frances Buckley
McNeill (14)
Ureca Jane Buckley Silva (15)
Sabina Laishley Buckley
McKeever, Boggs (16)
Margaret Catherine Buckley
Young, Thomas (17)
Nancy Alcinda Blake Buckley
McNeill (18)
John Bernet Buckley (19)
Addie Lida Lorn Buckley McNeill (20)
Martha Laura Irene Buckley
McNeill (21) |

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(2) John Buckley
Patsy Casebolt

Joshua Buckley (6)
Kate Buckley Friel (7)
Rachel Buckley McCollum

(3) Joe Buckley
Betty Gibson

No Children

(4) Hettie Buckley
George Kee

Joshua Buckley Kee (8)
Andrew Kee (9)
John Kee (10)
William Kee (11)

(5) Elizabeth Buckley
Arthur McClure

William Buckley
Elizabeth Collison

Isaac Buckley

(6) Joshua Buckley
Lucinda Adkison

Mary Ellen Buckley Adkison (12)
Ruth Eliza Buckley (13)
Elizabeth Susan Frances Buckley
McNeill (14)
Ureca Jane Buckley Silva (15)
Sabina Laishley Buckley
McKeever, Boggs (16)
Margaret Catherine Buckley
Young, Thomas (17)
Nancy Alcinda Blake Buckley
McNeill (18)
John Earnet Buckley (19)
Addie Lida Lorn Buckley McNeill (20)
Martha Laura Irene Buckley
McNeill (21)

(7) Kate Buckley Friel	Jerry Friel Jasper Friel
(12) Mary Ellen Buckley Joe Adkison	Estella Jerusha Alson Buckley McKeever (122) Harper Adkison (123) Inez Adkison Lightner (124)
(14) Elizabeth Susan Frances Buckley William C. McNeill	Nevada McNeill Kee (125) Lucy McNeill Overholt (126) Grace McNeill McNeill (127) Edna McNeill Kellison (128) Ruben S. McNeill (129)
(15) Ureca Jane Buckley Columbus Silva	Roseanna Salome Silva Hannah, Callahan (130) Genevive Silva (131) Myrtle Silva (132) Joseph Silva (133)
(16) Sabina Laishley Buckley Ruben McKeever	No Children
(16) Sabina Laishley Buckley Dexter S. Boggs	Lucy Boggs Tuckwiller (134) Charles Boggs (135) Hattie Ray Boggs Keightley (136) Chesley Pack Boggs (137)
(17) Margaret Catherine Buckley Charles Young	Ruth Young McNeill (138) Charles A. Young (139) William Maletus Young (140)
(17) Margaret Catherine Buckley Alvin Reece Thomas	Ella Thomas Kirby (141) Notley Thomas (142) Ulysses Guy Thomas (143) Alta Thomas Rose (144) Harry Clawson Thomas (145) Rex Thomas (146)
(18) Nancy Alcinda Blake Buckley Asa Shinn McNeill	Dennis Buckley McNeill (149) Pearl McNeill Scott (150) Forrest McNeill (151) Clyde Buckley McNeill (152) Paul McNeill (153)

(19) John Barnet Buckley Elizabeth Jane McNeill	Jay Buckley (154) Viola Winifred Buckley Amiller (155) Joshua Enoch Buckley (156) William McNeill Buckley (157) Addie May Buckley Graham (158) Ralph Barnette Buckley (159)
(20) Addie Lida Lorn Buckley Joshua McNeill	Clabourne Park McNeill (160) Frankie McNeill White, Dennison (161)
(21) Martha Laura Irene Buckley Ulysses McNeill	Ross McNeill (162) Glendolyn McNeill Goode (163) William McNeill (164) Dorothy McNeill Budd (165) Fred McNeill (166)
(122) Estella Jerusha Alson Buckley Oliver McKeever	Lynette McKeever Curtis (147) Glendolyn McKeever Morris (148)
(123) Harper Adkison Lena Duncan	Dale Adkison (201) Isaac Adkison (202) George Price Adkison (203)
(124) Inez Adkison Andrew Lightner	No Children
(125) Nevada McNeill O. Hunter Kee	No Children
(126) Lucy McNeill Albert S. Overholt	Paul Overholt (204) Gertrude Overholt Trent (205) William Overholt (206) Helen Overholt Isaacs (207) Earl Overholt (208)
(127) Grace McNeill George Douglas McNeill	Ward McNeill (209) Elizabeth McNeill Dorsey (211) Louise McNeill Wilson, Pesse (212) James McNeill (213)
(128) Edna McNeill Morton Kellison	No Children
(129) Ruben Snow McNeill Olivine Runceman	William McNeill (214)

(129) Ruben Snow McNeill Nellie Wade	No Children
(130) Roseanna Salome Silva Ira Hannah	No Children
(130) Roseanna Salome Silva Lawrence E. Callahan	No Children
(131) Genevive Silva	
(132) Myrtle Silva	
(133) Joseph Silva	
(134) Lucy Boggs Ray Tuckwiller	Ray Tuckwiller (215) Eugene Tuckwiller (216) Donald Tuckwiller (217)
(135) Charles Boggs Addie	Charles Boggs, Jr. Joseph Boggs
(136) Hattie Ray Boggs Ralph D. Keightley	Ralph Keightley (219) William Keightley (220)
(137) Chesley Ray Boggs Margaret	James Boggs Betty Boggs
(138) Ruth Young N. Clawson McNeill	No Children
(139) Charles A. Young Nora Overholt	Fred M. Young (221)
(140) William Maletus Young Hazel Weiford	Everett Paul Young (222) Helen Young Jefferies (223)
(141) Ella Thomas James E. Kirby	No Children

(142) Notley Thomas
Nellie Myers

Mary Thomas Waugh (224)
Clarence Thomas (225)
Irene Thomas Gillilan (226)
Wanda Thomas (227)
William Thomas (228)

(142) Notley Thomas
Dolly McClung

Dorothy Thomas Brewer (229)
Dollie Thomas Rhodes (230)
Glendolyn Thomas Flesher (231)
Margaret Thomas Crockshank (232)
Frances Thomas Workman (233)
James Thomas (234)
Robert Thomas (235)
Ruben Thomas (236)
Harold Thomas (237)
Jackie Thomas (238)
David Thomas (239)
Fred Thomas (240)

(143) Ulysses Guy Thomas
Opal Weiford

Gladys Thomas Moore (241)
James Harold Thomas (242)
Harry Lee Thomas (243)
Maxine Thomas Harper (244)
Alfred Thomas (245)

(144) Alta Thomas
Robert Rose

Margaret Rose Lutz
Mildred Rose Lang, Shurt (247)
Robert Rose (248)
Shannon Rose (249)
Louise Rose McKage (250)
Mary Ruth Rose Moore (251)

(145) Harry Clawson Thomas
One Gibson

Catherine Thomas Buckland (252)
Rebecca Thomas Allen (253)
Wilda Thomas Mann (254)
Harry Thomas, Jr. (255)

(146) Rex Thomas

(147) Lynette McKeever
Curtis

No Children

(148) Glendolyn McKeever
Morris

(149) Dennis McNeill
Leona Kessler

Dowell McNeill
Hugh McNeill

(150) Pearl McNeill
Paul Scott

Anna Pauline Scott Wilson

(151) Forrest McNeill	
(152) Clyde Buckley McNeill Irene McNutt	Steven McNeill
(153) Paul McNeill Elizabeth Fisher	Patricia McNeill
(154) Jay Buckley	
(155) Viola Winifred Buckley Aaron Aumiller	Forrest Stanford Aumiller Glen Omega Aumiller William Buckley Aumiller Betty Jane Aumiller Kenealy
(156) Joshua Enoch Buckley Martha Harris	Geraldine Hana Buckley Dilley Helen Jean Buckley Roberts
(157) William McNeill Buckley Eula McCauley	No Children
(158) Addie May Buckley Walter Graham	Mary Elizabeth Graham Weiford Jay Buckley Graham
(159) Ralph Barnette Buckley Dorothy Monroe	No Children
(160) Clabourne Park McNeill Nellie Lightner	Stowe McNeill
(161) Frankie McNeill Clyde White	No Children
(161) Frankie McNeill Albert Dennison	Eleanor Dennison Lambert Howard Dennison Martha Dennison Shober Albert Mark Dennison
(162) Ross McNeill Betty	Nayan McNeill
(163) Glendolyn McNeill Frank Goode	Glendolyn Rose Goode

(164) William McNeill Clarsse	
(165) Dorothy McNeill Harold Budd	Harold Budd, Jr. John McNeill Budd
(166) Fred McNeill	
(201) Dale Adkison Veda McCoy	
(202) Isaac Adkison Dorothy Cunningham	
(203) George Price Adkison Nelda	Viola Catherine Adkison David Adkison Janet Adkison
(204) Paul Overholt Penny Golden	Mary Frances Overholt Cochran Joan Overholt Hall
(205) Gertrude Overholt Tom Trent	Torrence Watson Trent Pamela Lucille Trent Keyser Meredith Overholt Trent
(206) William Overholt Lorna Smith	Robert Overholt
(207) Helen Overholt Ken Isaacs	No Children
(208) Earl Overholt Hannah Mary Coghill	Judith Lynn Overholt John Overholt Deborah Overholt
(209) Ward McNeill Laura Nelson	John Douglas McNeill
(211) Elizabeth McNeill C. P. Dorsey	No Children
(212) Louise McNeill Wilson	No Children

(212) Louise McNeill Roger Pease	Douglas Pease
(213) James McNeill Annabell Dunbrack	Michael Blix McNeill Cheryl Irene McNeill
(214) William R. McNeill Esther Henry	Scott McNeill
(215) Ray Tuckwiller	
(216) Eugene Tuckwiller	
(217) Donald Tuckwiller	
(219) Ralph Keightley	
(220) William Keightley	
(221) Fred M. Young Veda Moore	No Children
(222) Everette Paul Young	
(223) Helen Young Robert Jefferies	Robert Jefferies Barnette Jefferies Linda Jefferies
(224) Mary Thomas Vaugh	
(225) Clarence Thomas	
(226) Irene Thomas Gillilan	
(227) Wanda Thomas	
(228) William Thomas	
(229) Dorothy Thomas Brewer	

(230) Dolly Thomas Rhodes	
(231) Glendolyn Thomas Flashman	
(232) Margaret Thomas Crockshank	
(233) Frances Thomas Workman	
(234) James Thomas	
(235) Robert Thomas	
(236) Ruben Thomas	
(237) Harold Thomas	
(238) Jack Thomas	
(239) David Thomas	
(240) Fred Thomas	
(241) Gladys Thomas John Moore, Jr.	Vicki Lynn Moore
(242) James Harold Thomas Winona Eades	Lana Kay Thomas
(243) Harry Lee Thomas Louise Smith	Ellen Thomas
(244) Maxine Thomas Sam Harper	Beth Lorraine Harper
(245) Alfred Thomas Wanda Defibaugh	Timothy Thomas Kimberly Thomas William Guy Thomas

(246) Margaret Rose
Edward Lutz

(247) Mildred Rose
Maurice Lang

Timothy Lang

(247) Mildred Rose
Randolph Short

Ann Short

(248) Robert Rose
Nola Jones

Sally Rose
Robert Rose
Thomas Rose

(249) Shannon Rose

(250) Louise Rose
Robert McKage

Robert McKage
Edward McKage

(251) Mary Ruth Rose
Jack Moore

Steven McNeill
Agnes McLaughlin

Hettina McNeill Somerville
Jane McNeill

Forrest Stanford Aumiller
Margaret Shucker

No Children

Glen Omega Aumiller
Wilma Hayes

Aaron Aumiller
Dennis Aumiller
Daryl Aumiller
John (Jack) Aumiller
Melody Aumiller

William Buckley Aumiller
Ethel Klase

William Aumiller
Walter Aumiller
Steven Aumiller
Gretchen Aumiller

Betty Jane Aumiller
Wilbur Kenealy

Winifred Kenealy
Jane Kenealy

Geraldine Buckley
Charles Kermit Dilley

Charles Kermit Dille
Martha Kay Dilley
Elizabeth Buckle

*Helen Jean Buckley -10-
Phillip Roberts*

*Phillip Roberts Jr
John Buckley Roberts*

Mary Elizabeth Graham
William Paul Weiford

Donna Jean Weiford Dunbrack
Walter William Weiford

Jay Buckley Graham
Helen Frances Cunningham

William Ervin Graham
Elizabeth Ann Graham
Jaynell Susan Graham

Stowe McNeill
Nancy Siple

Perry McNeill

Eleanor Dennison
Harper Lambert

Howard Dennison

Martha Dennison
James Shober

Albert Mark Dennison

Mary Frances Overholt
Howe Preston Cochran II

Howe Preston Cochran, III
Paul Rossie Cochran

Joan Overholt
Joseph E. Hall

Jeffrey Marshall Hall

John Douglas McNeill
Vivian

Laurch Ann McNeill
Rosemarie McNeill
Grace Allison McNeill

Cheryl Irene McNeill
Larry McCallister

Bettina McNeill
Kirk M. Somerville

Dennis Auxillier
Sally

Martha Kay Dilley
Jacob Mullet

Charles Jacob Mullet

Donna Jean Weiford
George Douglas Dunbrack

Addie Buckley Dunbrack

Torrence Watson Trent
Irma Anderson Trent

Todd Meredith Trent

Pamela Lucille Trent
Thomas Keyser

Sandra Dare Keyser
John Trent Keyser

Meredith Overholt Trent
Etheline Fink

Gale Elyse Trent
Bruce Cameron Trent
Meredith Lee Trent
Kevin Hunter Trent

THE BUCKLEY MEETING HOUSE

When John Buckley married Patsy Casabolt about 1800, he built a house on the west side of the Greenbrier River. It was located just north of the mouth of Swago Creek and about two hundred feet back from the river's edge. At that time a few people had settled in the community, and they were invited to come to this house for worship.

As the community grew the house became too small to accommodate the crowds, and it was decided to build a church.

This building was located just south of the present Lower Church (Bethel). It was a log building and was large enough to accommodate a small congregation. This probably was built about 1825. This church was located on land donated by the Buckley family. The lot was about one-half acre in size. The lot was used as a cemetery for a long time and is still used for that purpose.

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April 6, 1940

Nelle Y. McLaughlin
Marlinton, W. Va.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 4- Section 2

My friend, Moody Moore, close observer of things in general and out of door things in particular, has been telling me for years of an Indian grave on the old road between the Jake place and Huntersville, about opposite the mouth of Browns Creek. In the days of his youth, he had hunted for the traditional jar of silver buried on the rising ground near the mouth of a stream, away back in the 1750's or 1760's.

His uncle the late William Moore of Browns Creek, had found a large heap of piled stones when he worked on the new road around the Jake Hill in 1890. He told the young nephew about it and Moody proceeded to investigate to see if by any chance this might be the place the treasure was buried.

Moving tons of stones, Mr. Moore found no silver, but he did uncover the bones of not less than a half dozen men. The bodies had been laid in a circle, feet to the center. One at least had been a man of gigantic stature, with a skull of unusual thickness. From the way his teeth were worn down, it was presumed he had been up in years when he met death. No silver was found, nor anything else to show whether Indians or whites had been buried there. The bodies had been placed upon the carpet of forest leaves and moulded, with no excavation, and tons of stones piled upon them. The heap was circular and per-

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haps a rod in diameter.

The tragedy which overtook this party will remain one of the mysteries of these mountains. If they were Indians and the victims of a battle between tribes, I read the sign that they belonged to the victorious side. They were laid to rest with care on a pleasant bench in the full light of the rising sun. But if Indians, surely some stone weapons, implements and ornaments would have been found.

As for the whites, it is not unlikely that parties of hunters and trappers met death in the forest vastness of these mountains prior to the general settlements which began in the late 1760's and early 70's. Cold might wipe them out in the winter; the regulars of the standing armies of the Six Nations, in accord with provisions of the Treaty of Albany, 1722, would kill any whites trespassing upon Indian ground; a party of mercenary scalp hunters looking for scalps to claim bounty at Detroit in French and Indian war times, would murder whomever they found; or it may have been the work of a bloody band of outlaws raiding a camp for the winter fur catch. Indian regulars, mercenaries or white outlaws would leave the bones of their victims to bleach where they fell, to be gathered together for decent and perhaps Christian burial by the first party of white hunters.

Little or no record need ever be expected now to be found of such disappearances. There was a strong order by the King of Great Britain to keep out of the Indian Country

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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on the western waters. By solemn treaty he said that the Indians could kill with impunity any of his subjects so trespassing. No record of such loss, if known, would be upon the court books at Staunton. In the Augusta County records there now and then appears the notation of a man on the delinquent tax list or one wanted for debt or for trial or witness "Disappeared in the Greenbrier Country."

Along in the 1730's in the Greenbrier Country, "a days journey from Ft. Dinwiddie" on Jacksons River, a party of Indians, some say as many as fifteen, were killed by whites. This brought reverberations even to the King's court at London, and that mighty monarch made due apology to the Indian nation for the breach upon their people. The man responsible got out of it by saying he could not tell what kind of Indians they were; they looked like a war party of Shawnees to him, and he was taking no chances.

That sounded so like a Marlinton trick to me that I have always put Marlins Bottom as the place where it was pulled. However, the mound at Huntersville is twenty miles from Fort Dinwiddie---a fair days walk on mountain trails---and it may be this cairn marks the resting place of these friendly Indians done to death through excess of caution, to put the best face possible on the matter.

The absence of any personal belongings of stone would indicate burial after robbery. The care with which the bodies were laid away indicates to me burial by friends. The placing of the bodies on top of the ground may mean burial in the

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winter time on frozen ground, or merely lack of good digging implements and hurry to get away by the survivors. However, they did a good job of rock piling.

The good state of preservation of the bones is sign to me that burial could not have been long before the arrival of settlers in the Knapps Creek valley, about one hundred sixty-five years ago.

There are Indian mounds scattered all over this region; most of dirt but occasionally a stone pile. In some of them remains of men are found, with personal stone belongings. In others only the sign of fire is seen.

Talking about lost men in these mountains, I would say that for wholesale disappearance the "Sandy Creek Voyage" holds the record. This was a demonstration in force against the Indian towns on the Ohio River. It was staged in cold weather to catch the Indians in winter quarters, before they were ready for their spring time raids. The army traveled by way of the Big Sandy route. On the Tug Fork of Sandy on the way out a young buffalo was killed. The hide was hung in a tree to be taken on the return trip. The ones who did return that way were so hungry they cut the hide up in throngs -tugs-and ate it. Hence the name Tug River.

The winter had been mild east of the mountains, but when the army got well into the mountains there was one of those late snow storms with great cold which so often end up a mild winter. They talk about two feet of snow and twenty degrees below zero

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and no doubt the Sandy Creek voyagers experienced that much and more. The army broke up into small parties to work their way back to the settlements east of the mountains. How many perished from cold exposure and starvation is not known. I have no doubt that some of the parties attempted to return by way of the Greenbrier valley- the most direct route home for those who were from the Jackson River, Cow Pasture and Shenandoah settlements. There were two causes for the army breaking up. One was that each rugged individual composing the army had a better way home than the one proposed by the leaders. We have people in the mountains to this day who demonstrate such character. The other reason was that by breaking up in smaller parties, and spreading out over different routes, some would find game and get through, while if they stuck together all might perish. It is not an unreasonable guess that the bones under the rock pile near Huntersville might possibly be the remains of a party returning from the ill fated Sandy Creek Voyage. Anyway, these mountains were full of freezing, starving men, trekking back home in the deep snow and fearful cold of a late winter storm.

Some years ago a number of well preserved skeletons were found behind a wall under a rock cliff on the Greenbrier below the Buckley place at the mouth of Swago. My guess was that these were Sandy Creek voyagers. They were white men as they had long heads.

About the tradition of buried silver treasure in these

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mountains, the versions differ. The general run of the story is that a party of Frenchmen and Indians were traveling this way from the Mississippi Country loaded down with silver, making for Ft. Duquesne and Canada. At the mouth of a stream where a run came into a smaller stream, they found they were pursued. Here they buried pots of silver and sought safety in flight and never returned. I have heard the exact location is the mouth of Swago, Stony Creek, Doughards Creek, Clover Creek, Deer Creek, forks of Deer Creek, mouth and forks of Sitlington Creek, Indian Draft and most everywhere else. However, I hold there is little doubt that this treasure is buried on the waters of Stony Creek. Up on the family's Jerico Farms, there are still holes in the ground which a treasure seeker dug seventy years ago. I do not argue the matter but listen with patience to all who know where this treasure is, even to those who are so far off their base as to say that French Creek, in Upshur, or Jackson Mill in Lewis, or Peel Tree on Lost Creek and Clarksburg on the West Fork, in Harrison have the exact location.

From an Editorial written by Calvin W. Price in the
Pocahontas Times for May 1935.



COOPER

James Cooper (1780-1845)

and

Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861)

of

Pocahontas County, West Virginia

Augusta, Rockbridge, & Bath counties, Virginia

by

Homer C. Cooper

145 Pendleton Drive

Athens, Georgia 30601

August 1959

Revised April 1968

August 1959

Minor revisions, April 1968

To: My Cooper Relatives
From: Dr. Homer C. Cooper, 145 Pendleton Drive, Athens, Georgia 30601
Re: Our ancestors, James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861), married in 1805, of Augusta County, Virginia, and Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

This paper will be concerned with James Cooper and his wife, Nancy Agnes Wooddell, two of our ancestors of the sixth generation. My hope is that distributing this sketch will encourage you to send me additional material concerning these two ancestors. Please make suggestions concerning corrections and additions, for I plan to revise this paper for inclusion in a brief history of our Cooper, Wooddell, Whitman, and McKemy ancestors, which will be distributed among you when completed.

As was the case with an earlier paper concerning Joseph Wooddell, a major source of information for this paper has been the Wooddell family papers, now in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. I am grateful to Mr. Wooddell for permission to copy and use this material. I am also deeply indebted to Mr. Rockford N. Hamad, a native of Green Bank who now lives in Alexandria, Virginia, for introducing me to Mr. Wooddell and for sharing his extensive knowledge of the history and family relationships of Pocahontas County. Other valuable sources have been letters and conversations with members of the family, Chalkley's abstracts, Price's history, and the courthouse records at Marlinton, Staunton, and Lexington.

James Cooper (1780-1845) was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia on January 16, 1780, the youngest of the four children of James Cooper (-1781) & Jean McKemy. James' father died when James was less than two years old and he was reared in the Mossey Creek section of Augusta County, according to Price. Though Chalkley abstracts adoption papers for his two brothers, I found none for James and it is therefore most probable that James was reared by his mother, Jean McKemy, at the McKemy homestead near Mossey Creek. However, I have no direct evidence to support this guess.

Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1845) was born in Augusta County, Virginia on December 13, 1785, the second child of Joseph Wooddell (1782-1834) and Elizabeth (-1820). I know nothing about her childhood. However, James and Nancy may have met at the Mossey Creek Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1768 and in which both the McKemy and Wooddell families were prominent. There is also some slight evidence that James and Nancy's mothers may have been sisters, but I do not have conclusive evidence about this possibility.

Contrary to the statement of Price, which will be quoted later, James and Nancy were not married when both moved to Green Bank soon after 1800. I do not know whether James accompanied James McKemy, his uncle, or the Wooddell family on this move; since James McKemy & Joseph Wooddell were granted land jointly, they may have moved as a single party, with James Cooper in tow. Before his marriage, James Cooper earned a part of his living at Green Bank by teaching school, according to a bill now in the Wooddell family papers in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank:

Dundry due to James Cooper for teaching school:

James Cokerly, Dr to Cash	L	S	D
S. Jacob Nottingham, Dr to Cash	0	1	10
James Nottingham, Dr to Cash	0	2	0
James Nottingham, Dr to Cash	0	2	0
James Nottingham, Dr to Cash	0	2	0

Stephen Ricard, Dr to Cash
John Dittain, In to Cash

L	S	D
0	12	0
0	12	0

Taken from the Book—it Being a Ballance Due me from the Employers January
the 16th, 1804. James Cooper

James Cooper and Nancy Agnes Wooddell were married at Green Bank on June 17, 1805. Since Nancy was still a minor, the marriage bond was made several days before the ceremony between James and her father, Joseph Wooddell. Green Bank was still part of Bath County at that time and thus the following bond is on file at the Bath County courthouse, Warm Springs, Virginia:

Know all men by these presents that we, James Cooper and Joseph Wooddell are held and firmly bound unto John Page esq. Governor of Virginia in the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars for the use of the Commonwealth to which payment will and truly to be made to the said Governor or his successors we bind ourselves our heirs executors & administrators jointly & severally firmly by these presents sealed with our Seals and dated this 11th day of June, 1805.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is shortly intended to be had and Solemnized a marriage between the above bound James Cooper and Nancy Wooddell of this County, now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage then the above Obligation to be void else to remain in full force:

Signed and Acknow.^d
in presence of
Chs L Francisco

JAS COOPER
JCS WOODDELL

Seal

After their marriage, James and Nancy settled near her father's homestead on a stream which is now called Cooper Run, a branch of Deer Creek, at an approximate longitude of $79^{\circ} 48' 30''$ and north latitude of $38^{\circ} 24' 45''$. Over the years, James acquired considerable land. Some of the boundaries of their land were specified in a deed to their son, Joseph, made shortly before James' death in 1825:

This indenture made and entered into this nineteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and forty five between James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia of the one part and Joseph W. Cooper of the County and State aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth that the said James Cooper for and in the consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars to him in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by him the said James Cooper hath bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargain and sell unto the said Joseph W. Cooper and to his heirs and assigns forever the following certain tracts or parcels of land to wit: One tract containing one hundred and fifteen acres deeded to sd Cooper by Mr Lamb and Betsey his wife lying and being in the County of Pocahontas and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows: Beginning at 2 white Oaks corner to Solomon Conrad thence N. 60° W. 130 poles to 3 white Oaks corner to sd Conrad thence N. 73° W. 40 poles to a pitch pine or black pine S. 50° W. 54 poles to 3 black pines & Eoon Tallman line thence S. 7° W. 70 poles to a white Oak and hickory thence S. 65° E. 96 poles to 2 Birchies a branch S. 14° E. 36 poles to a pine and white oak on the top of a ridge thence S. 65° E. 100 poles to 2 Chestnuts thence N. 5° W. 109 poles to the Beginning.

Also an other tract containing seventy five acres Deeded to sd Cooper by Mr. Warrick and James Tallman lying and being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Cartmels Creek a branch of Greenbrier River and bounded as follows Beginning at 2 maples and sugar tree S. 80° E. 36 poles to a white oak and ironwood thence S. 75° E. 40 poles to 2 maples on a ridge N. 60° E. 32 poles to 2 white oaks W. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 22° W. 33 poles to a white oak and hickory on the top of a hill E.

94 poles to 2 Beeches by a branch S. 11° E. 110 poles to a forked maple in a draft and down the same to N. 83° W. 60 poles to 2 ironwoods N. 84° W. 204 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract containing twenty acres adjoining the foregoing and Jacob Bible and bounded as follows to wit. Beginning at 2 ironwoods corner to Jacob Bible and the old tract thence S. 15° E. 30 poles to 2 pines on a hill Sidg S. 77° E. 88 poles to 2 white Oaks N. 25° E. 16 poles to a spruce pine N. 66° W. 26 poles to a Spruce pine N. 15° W. 20 poles to a pine and white oak thence leaving sd Bibles line N. 83° W. 70 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract Containing Eighty acres deeded to sd Cooper & Jacob Dysart Thomas Lamb and his wife lying & being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows to wit; Beginning at a Sugar Tree and maple corner to Wm. Lightner thence S. 28° E. 36 poles to a white oak and ironwood S. 75° E. 40 poles to 2 Maples on a ridge N. 62° S. 32 poles to 2 white oaks N. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 28° W. 53 poles to a white Oak and hickory on a ridge N. 40° W. 58 poles to 2 white Oaks S. 72° W. 52 poles to white Oak S. 58° E. 14 poles to the Beginning on the other tract containing fifteen acres and adjoining the aforesaid tract and Deeded to sd Cooper by sd Dysart Lamb and wife.

Another tract Containing fifteen acres and Deeded to sd Cooper by James Tallman lying and being in the county and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek adjoining the lands of Solomon Conrad, Patrick Bruffy, and Boon Tallman.

Together with the appertinances belonging to sd tracts or parcels of land to the sole use and behoof of him the sd Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever, and the said James Cooper for himself and his heirs doth covenant and agree with the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs, that the said James Cooper and his heirs the said parcels of land with all the appertinances therunto belonging to the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever against the Claim of him the said James Cooper and his heirs and all and every other person or persons whatsoever will forever warrant and defend, in Witness Whereof the Said James Cooper hath hereunto Subscribed his name and affixed his seal this day and year above written.

Jas. Cooper Seal

Pocahontas County to wit—We Edward Ervine & Wm. Arbogast Justices of the peace in the County aforesaid in the State of Virginia do hereby Certify that James Cooper a part to a certain deed bearing date the 19th day of March 1845 and hereunto annexed personally appeared before us in our County aforesaid and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed and desired not to retract it and desired to certify the sd acknowledgment to the Clerk of the County Court of Pocahontas in order that sd deed may be recorded Given under our hands and Seals this 19th day of March in the year 1845.

Edward Ervine Seal
Wm. Arbogast Seal

James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddall (1785-1861) were the parents of nine children:

901 Elizabeth (Betsey) McKamy Cooper
Born May 21, 1806, Green Bank, W. Va.
Died May 8, 1845, Greenhill, Highland County, Va.
Place of burial not known.
Married April 4, 1824 to Samuel Woods

902 Malinda Cooper
Born December 21, 1808, Green Bank, W. Va.
Died 1894, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
Place of burial not known.
Unmarried

*503 James Harvey Cooper

Born July 30, 1810, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died December 8, 1881, near Tanner, Gilmer County, W. Va.
 Buried on his farm on Jessie Run, near Tanner, W. Va.
 Married March 8, 1836, Pocahontas County, to Julia Ann Whitman
 (born September 28, 1817, Anthony's Creek, Greenbrier County,
 W. Va.—died September 20, 1903, near Tanner W. V.—buried
 beside her husband), daughter of George Whitman, Senior.

504 Nancy B. Cooper

Born July 29, 1812, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died March 3, 1895, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Unmarried

505 John Thomas Cooper

Born November 28, 1814, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 9, 1878, Parkerburg, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married October 31, 1850, near Fairmont, W. Va., to Louisa Lirpin
 Linn (born February 15, 1825, Linn's Mills near Fairmont, W. Va.,
 died February 11, 1916), daughter of Robert Linn III (1781-1834)
 & Catherine Lyon (1788-1856)

506 Margaret I. Cooper

Born February 11, 1819, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died January 25, 1895, Burnt House, Ritchie County, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married March 12, 1844 to Enoch R. Hill (born January 13, 1821—
 died August 6, 1896, Burnt House, W. Va.), son John Hill (1790-
 1835) & Keturah Cunningham (-).

507 Lucinda Cooper

Born March 1, 1821, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died May 27, 1886, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Buried Arbovale, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
 Married December 21, 1843, Green Bank, W. Va., to John Alexander
 Gillespie (born December 22, 1815—died March 11, 1897, Green
 Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.).

508 Joseph William Cooper

Born April 18, 1823, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 29, 1898, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Buried Wardick Cemetery, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Married first 1847 to Rachel Tellman Sutton (born October 21, 1822—
 died July 12, 1863, Green Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.)
 Married second January 16, 1868, Bath County, Va., to Harriett A.
 Wade (born 1835—died about 1869), daughter of Henry S. Wade &
 P. Arbogast.
 Married third to Mary E. Arbogast (born 1845), daughter of Solomon
 Arbogast & Nancy Nottingham.

509 Elias Virginia Cooper

Born September 30, 1825, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 18, 1900, Dumore, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married November 30, 1849, to Andrew W. Kerr (born 1828).

During the period from 1800 to 1810, several lawsuits arose among the various members of the McKamy family and between some of the McKames and the children

By James Nottingham, Jr., in to Cash	0	2	0
James Nottingham, Jr., in to Cash	0	2	0

of James Cooper (-1781). These suits were engendered, apparently, because some of the McKemy uncles had purchased or managed the property of James Cooper (-1781) after adopting one or two of his children, then died intestate, which led to disputes between their own children and the adopted Cooper cousins. The records pertaining to these suits can be found in the Augusta County courthouse under "McKemy vs. McKemy—O.S. 147; N. S. 51—Bill, no date" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. 2, pages 127-128) and "Coopers Heirs vs. McKemy—O.S. 212; N. S. 75—Bill, May, 1809" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. II, page 167). Judging by the abstracts, these papers might contain information about the various Cooper-McKemy relationships, but I have not had an opportunity to visit the courthouse at Staunton. However, I do have a photostatic copy of a letter by James Cooper (1780-1845) to Mr. & Mrs. James McKemy, which was submitted as evidence in the Cooper-McKemy case cited above:

Dear Uncle & Aunt—These Comes to let you know that we are enjoying a Reasonable Degree of health at present and hope these may find you and your family in good health when they Come to your hand.

I have nothing material to inform you of at present only that I have Notify, Andrew Kenady to attend at Staunton at Garbers Tavern on the first day of the September District Court in order to Settle the Bond I have of my fathers on him and his Brother James, I wrote him to have the Bond he said he had against my Father (that is if there is any in being) or to have the money to pay it or I should enter suit against him as I could give him no longer Indulgence.

I have some thoughts of going to Tennessee State this fall if I possibly Can—and wish you if it lies in your power to get me some money as I shall stand in need of some to bear my expences—and also I want you or Some of you to be at Garbers on the day above mentiond to meet Kenaday to see if he will have the Bond or money or what he intends to do and you will much oblige your Affectiate Nephew.

Mr. James McKemy

N. B. please to write to Bearer

James Cooper

July the 31st 1806

Bath County

I have compared the handwriting of this letter, which is in the Cooper-McKemy case records in the courthouse at Staunton, with samples of James Cooper's handwriting in the Wooddell family papers and there is no question but that the James Cooper (1780-1845) of Green Bank was the son of the James Cooper (-1781) and Jean McKemy of Rockbridge County. Other evidence supports this relationship: the Wooddell papers contain a letter from James McKemy in which he mentions going to Lexington, county seat of Rockbridge, on business for James Cooper; the oldest child of James Cooper (1780-1845) was Elizabeth McKemy Cooper; approximate years of birth for James' older siblings, calculated from adoption and apprenticeship data in Chalkley (I, 273; I, 280), are consistent with James' known date of birth.

The above letter is also interesting because James mentions the possibility of visiting Tennessee. Though James was probably reared in the Mossey Creek area, he may have spent part of his early years in Tennessee; Chalkley's abstract of the Cooper-McKemy suit papers states: "James Cooper and others of the Cooper family moved to Tennessee." A thorough examination of the papers in the Staunton courthouse would probably reveal the basis for this statement. Some of the McKemy depositions in the two suits were from Knox County, Tennessee.

In addition to farming, James Cooper (1780-1845) also served as a Bath County constable for several years. As early as 1808, he carried out court orders, according to a document in the Wooddell family papers:

Bath County to wit—Whereas Charles Donaven in said County farmer hath personally come before me Esq. one of the Commonwealths Justices assigned to keep the peace in said County and hath taken a Corporal oath that

Do you, William, all to land
James Nottingham, Do to Cash

U	2	U
0	7	0

he the Said Charles Doneven is afraid John McMahon in the Said County farmer and James McMahon the Said John McMahon's son will beat him (wound maim kill or do him some bodily hurt) and hath therefore prayed surety of the peace against him the Said John McMahon and James McMahon his son.

These are therefore on behalf and in the name of the Commonwealth to Command you jointly and severally that immediately upon the receipt here of you bring the Said John McMahon and James McMahon before me or some other Justice of the peace for the said County of Bath to find surety as well for his personal appearance at the next Court to be holden for the said County as for their keeping the peace in the mean time towards Citizens of this Commonwealth and chiefly towards the said Charles Doneven.

Given under my hand and seal in the said County the fifteenth day of September one thousand Eight Hundred and Eight.

To James Cooper Constable
To Execute and Return

Sampson Mathews

Seal

James apparently continued as constable for many years, since Price (pages 100-101) states concerning the formation of Pocahontas County from Bath County:

Affairs having so far progressed, the formation of a new county was mooted and due arrangements made. A resolution to that effect was passed by the Virginia Legislature, March 1821 . . . One of the most memorable days in the social and civil history of Pocahontas County was the 5th day of March, 1822, when the first court was held . . . James Cooper was appointed Constable for the Head of Greenbrier, with William Slaven and Samuel Hogsett as bondsmen.

At his death in 1845, James was apparently still serving as constable, since the men who served as his bondsmen had to settle obligations which he had not settled before his death, according to a receipt in the Wooddell papers:

Recd 1 Dec 1846 of James Wooddell the acct of Patrick Bruffey Sheriff of Pocahontas County for the sum of \$13.78 & also for the sum of \$9.08 money paid by the said James Wooddell as one of the securities of James Cooper late Constable of Pocahontas County upon executions from the Superior Court of law & chs. for Pocahontas County in favour of the Gov. vs. said Cooper & his securities—said acct is now placed in my hands for the purpose of collecting the amt. thereof by suit of the estate of sd Cooper.

W. H. Terrill

James was a member of the Virginia militia, according to a document in the Wooddell papers:

At a Regimental Court of Enquiry held for the 127 Regiment of Virginia Militia at the House of John Bradshaw in the County of Pocahontas on the 26th day of November 1825.

Ordered that James Cooper Provost Martial to this Regiment be allowed three dollars per day for Attending one Regimental and two Battalion Courts of enquiry during the Present year amounting in the whole to \$9.

Joseph Moore C.C.E.

Apparently militia allowances were paid from fine money collected by the sheriff, for on the reverse side of the above document is the following notation:

The Sheriff of Pocahontas County will pay the within sum of Nine Dollars to James Cooper out of any money in his hands Arising from Militia fines.

John Baxter Col. Comdt.

James also served as the local assessor and one of the receipts he gave to his brother-in-law is in the Wooddell papers:

1839—James Wooddell to the Com^r of the Revenue for Pocahontas County. In to Entering by Divise two tracts of land on the land list 98 & 40 Acres of land Devised by Joseph Wooddell.

Jas. Cooper Com^r Rev.

The year before his death, James prepared a will which was probated in December 1845 and can be found in Pocahontas County will book 2, page 265:

In the name of God Amen. I, James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia being weak in body, but of sound mind and memory, and considering the mortality of the Human Body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make this my last Will & Testament, Revoking all others—First I Recommend my soul to God who gave it, my body to be Decently Buried in a Christian like manner, and after my Burial expenses are paid, and all my other just debts are punctually paid, I Will and Bequeath the Ballance of my property both real and personal in the form following:

First, I will and bequeath to my beloved Wife Nancy Cooper all my House hold and Kitchen Furniture except such as her Daughters has made and claims, also the controle of my House and House hold during her life time or Widowhood, her choise of two clocks, and my Family Bible during her life time, and then to be left to my Daughter Malinda, provided she out lives her mother the remainder of the Books to be equally divided between the ballance of the Heirs, I also will to my Wife Nancy Cooper, one Horse two cows and ten head of Sheep, and the Bees for the use of the Family, To my Daughter Setsy M. Cooper or her Heirs, I will and bequeath, one Sorrel Mare Saddle and Bridle, her equal proportion of Sheep, and one cow (exclusive of two cows that she claims as her own at this time), I also will and bequeath to my Daughter Malinda one Horse Saddle and Bridle one cow and her equal proportion of Sheep, also the same to my Daughter Nancy B., the same to my Daughter Margaret I., the same to my Daughter Lucinda, the same to my Daughter Eliza Virginia and to my son Joseph W. Cooper, I will and bequeath one bay colt one cow and his equal proportion of Sheep with his sisters, also my Rifle Gun & Shot Pouch, my Watch, and wearing apperl, also my Plantation with all its appertinances, including all the Farming Utentials and Wind Mill, during the Lifetime or Widowhood, of his mother or during the single state of any of his Sister, Provided the above named J. W. Cooper maintains his Mother during her Life time or Widowhood and his Sisters or sister while they remain Single and wish to live on the Place with him, by them giving him what assistance they can towards their own support, and after the Death or Widowhood of my Beloved Wife, and after the marriage or death of all my single Daughters, the Plantation, is to be sold, Provided it brings what any three disinterested Free holders may say it is worth, the appraisors to be chosen by the Heirs living on the Plantation at that time, provided they can agree, if not, they are to be appointed by Court, and if my son J. W. Cooper complies with the above, He shall have two hundred dollars out of the price of sd. land and an equal Portion with his sisters, also all my interest in the Mountain Lands and Farming Utentials which is on or belonging to the Farm at that time exclusive of the Horse, Cow, Sheep, Gun, Watch and Cloaths, before mentioned, but if my son J. W. Cooper does not choose to maintain his mother and sisters as above mentioned, then my Beloved Wife is to have the Farm and Farming utentials during her life or widowhood for the benefit of her and her single daughters in case of the death of her son J. W. Cooper while he is single, she is to have the same controle as if he should refuse to support her and her single daughters as above mentioned—To my son James H. Cooper, I will and bequeath Fifty Dollars out of the price of said land when sold, by deducting the Principal, without its Interest of a note which I hold on him out of sd. Fifty Dollars—I also Will and Bequeath to my son John T. Cooper Fifty Dollars out

B. Jacob Nottingham, In to Cash
James Nottingham, In to Cash

0	1	10
0	2	0
0	8	0

of the price of sd. land when sold, and if sd. J. T. Cooper chooses he may have the surveyors Instruments at Thirty Dollars out of sd. Fifty Dollars and to have the same any time after my death.

Lastly, I constitute and Appoint my Beloved Wife Nancy Cooper and my son Joseph W. Cooper Executrix and Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Thirty first day of August Eighteen Hundred and forty four and 69th year of the Commonwealth.

WITNESSES PRESENT

Jas. Cooper

Seal

Boone Tallman
John A. Gillaspie
Jacob Bible

I do not know whether any of the objects mentioned in James' will, including the family Bible, are still in existence. I have had some correspondence with one of the descendants of Joseph William Cooper, but he does not know of anyone who has family heirlooms or papers. Since none of James' descendants now live in Green Bank, most of this material was probably destroyed or widely scattered when the various moves took place. Since Malinda, who never married, was living with her sister, Eliza Virginia Cooper Kerr, and family in 1870, according to the 1870 census, it may be that someone among the Andrew W. Kerr descendants has the family Bible and other objects.

James Cooper died on November 8, 1845. His son, Joseph William Cooper, operated the family farm and supported his mother until her death on November 29, 1861. During our brief visit to Green Bank in 1958, Mr. Hamed and I were unable to locate the graves of James and Nancy, but we did not have time to make extensive inquiries in the neighborhood or to search the old family homestead.

Price (pages 476-479) has written a sketch entitled "James Cooper", which I will reproduce in full, even though some of it duplicates my previous remarks, because Price's book is not easy to obtain, particularly outside West Virginia:

During most of the 19th century the Cooper name has been familiar in our region. James Cooper, the progenitor of the Cooper relationship, was a native of Augusta County, and was reared in the Mossey Creek section of that great County. Having married Nancy Agnes Wooddell, he came over with the Wooddells, very early in the settlement of the upper section of our county, and opened up property now (1900) owned by Robert N. Gum, near Greenbank, then known as Piney Woods. They were the parents of four sons and six daughters.

Elizabeth Cooper became Mrs. Woods, and settled at Greenhill, Highland County.

Margaret became Mrs. Enoch Hill and lived in Ritchie County. Her daughter Harriet became Mrs. Fling, and lived at Flag, Ohio. Nannie became another Mrs. Fling, and lived in Ritchie County.

Jane Cooper became Mrs. Andrew Kerr and lived near Dunmore. Her daughter Marilee became Mrs. Washington Hoover; Anne, now Mrs. Raymer Davis, near Greenbank; Caroline, now Mrs. Entwold Sutton, at Durbin. Her son William Kerr in Pocahontas, and John Kerr lives in Lewis County.

Lucinda Cooper became Mrs. John Alexander Gillespie, late of Greenbank. Her children were Taylor, Amos, and Wino, the three sons. Her daughters were Nancy, who became Mrs. George Beverage; Rachel, now Mrs. Henry Sheets, near Dunmore; Margaret, now Mrs. John L. Hudson, near Louise, Mary now Mrs. George Sheets, and Martha.

Nancy and Melinda are the names of James Cooper's other two daughters. Thomas Cooper died in youth.

John T. Cooper married in Marion County. He was a popular physician.

He resided a number of years in Parkersburg and then at Claysville, where he died in 1878. His daughter, Flora, teaches school in Parkersburg. His son James a foreman in machine shops at Parkersburg and other points. Another son, Arthur, is a Presbyterian minister in Illinois, and there are three children deceased. Dr. Cooper read medicine with the late Dr. Strather, of Warm Springs. He was prominent in church circles, being a ruling elder of a Parkersburg Presbyterian congregation.

James Harvey Cooper married Julia Ann Whitman, of Greenbrier County. They were the parents of five sons and three daughters. The daughters were Agnes who died in 1861, Julia Ann, and Rebecca. In reference to the sons we have this remarkable but sad record. They were all Confederate soldiers. Robert died in the war. James lost an arm in battle. John and Charles were each severely wounded, and George was killed in 1864 in battle near Fishers Hill.

Joseph W. Cooper married Rachel Tallman Sutton, and lived near Greenbank. They were the parents of four sons and one daughter: Rachel, George Clark, James Amos, John William, and Charles Calvin. In 1863 in the course of three weeks the diphtheritic scourge removed the mother, her daughter, and three sons by death. J. W. Cooper's second marriage was with Harriet Wade of Bath County. She lived about one year. His third marriage was with Mary Arbogast, near Glade Hill. Snowden, Walter and Vivian were the children of this marriage.

The writer would hereby cheerfully acknowledge the thanks due George C. Cooper for assistance rendered by him on the wayside, July 1, 1901, when we casually met near Marvin Chapel and took notes under an apple tree, the thermometer 96 degrees. Without the data given by this grandson of the venerable pioneer this sketch could not have been prepared and the name of a most worthy pioneer would have been overlooked.

James Cooper's name appears in the organization of the county as one of the constables appointed. He served the public as magistrate, assessor, and teacher of schools. He was regarded with high esteem for his honest and elevated character in social and business relations. He was a prominent member of the Liberty Church in the early history of that historic congregation, and his influence was ever for good morals, intelligence, and refinement of manners, himself being a fine specimen of what is termed "a gentleman of the old school", and was noted for his polite and gracious manners, correct and entertaining conversational powers.

We are indebted to Price for the above sketch. However, some minor errors should be corrected. James Cooper was born in Rockbridge County and married Nancy after coming to Green Bank. James Harvey Cooper had eight sons, five of whom were Confederate soldiers, and three daughters. With regard to these children, Charles was captured rather than wounded, George was killed July 15, 1864, in Loudoun County, Virginia, rather than at Fishers Hill, and Agnes died in 1856.

REFERENCES:

- Chalkley, Lyman. CHRONICLES OF THE SCOTCH-IRISH SETTLEMENT IN VIRGINIA. 3 Volume Roselyn, Virginia: Commonwealth Printing Co., 1912-1913. Abstracts from the original court records of Augusta County, 1745-1800.
 Price, William T. HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA. Marlinton, West Virginia: Price Brothers, 1901.
 Leather, Minnie K. HISTORY OF RITCHIE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA. Wheeling, W. Va.: Wheeling News Litho. Co., 1911. Especially pages 278-280.
 Miller, Thomas C., & Maxwell, Hu. WEST VIRGINIA AND ITS PEOPLE. 3 Volumes. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1913. See Volume 3, pages 983-984.

If several years from now I have moved ~~anywhere~~ persons desiring to correspond about the history of the family can obtain my current address from the Alumni Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or from the Alumni Office, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

August 1959

Minor revisions, April 1968

To: My Cooper Relatives

From: Dr. Homer C. Cooper, 145 Pendleton Drive, Athens, Georgia 30601

Re: Our ancestors, James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861), married in 1805, of Augusta County, Virginia, and Pocahontas County, West Virginia.

This paper will be concerned with James Cooper and his wife, Nancy Agnes Wooddell, two of our ancestors of the sixth generation. My hope is that distributing this sketch will encourage you to send me additional material concerning these two ancestors. Please make suggestions concerning corrections and additions, for I plan to revise this paper for inclusion in a brief history of our Cooper, Wooddell, Whitman, and McKeny ancestors, which will be distributed among you when completed.

As was the case with an earlier paper concerning Joseph Wooddell, a major source of information for this paper has been the Wooddell family papers, now in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. I am grateful to Mr. Wooddell for permission to copy and use this material. I am also deeply indebted to Mr. Rockford N. Hamed, a native of Green Bank who now lives in Alexandria, Virginia, for introducing me to Mr. Wooddell and for sharing his extensive knowledge of the history and family relationships of Pocahontas County. Other valuable sources have been letters and conversations with members of the family, Chalkley's abstracts, Price's history, and the courthouse records at Marlinton, Staunton, and Lexington.

James Cooper (1780-1845) was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia on January 16, 1780, the youngest of the four children of James Cooper (-1781) & Jean McKeny. James' father died when James was less than two years old and he was reared in the Mossey Creek section of Augusta County, according to Price. Though Chalkley abstracts adoption papers for his two brothers, I found none for James and it is therefore most probable that James was reared by his mother, Jean McKeny, at the McKeny homestead near Mossey Creek. However, I have no direct evidence to support this guess.

Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1845) was born in Augusta County, Virginia on December 13, 1785, the second child of Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) and Elizabeth (-1820). I know nothing about her childhood. However, James and Nancy may have met at the Mossey Creek Presbyterian Church, which was founded in 1766 and in which both the McKeny and Wooddell families were prominent. There is also some slight evidence that James and Nancy's mothers may have been sisters, but I do not have conclusive evidence about this possibility.

Contrary to the statement of Price, which will be quoted later, James and Nancy were not married when both moved to Green Bank soon after 1800. I do not know whether James accompanied James McKeny, his uncle, or the Wooddell family on this move; since James McKeny & Joseph Wooddell were granted land jointly, they may have moved as a single party, with James Cooper in tow. Before his marriage, James Cooper earned a part of his living at Green Bank by teaching school. According to a bill now in the Wooddell family papers in the possession of Mr. Forrest Wooddell of Green Bank:

Salary due to James Cooper for teaching school:

Thomas Caherly, Dr to Cash	L	8	D
B. Jacob Nottingham, Dr to Cash	O	1	10
James Nottingham, Dr to Cash	O	2	0
	O	N	0

Stephen Finard, Dr to Cash
John Suttain, Dr to Cash

L	S	D
0	12	0
0	12	0

Taken from the Book—it Being a Ballance Due me from the Employers January the 16th, 1804.
James Cooper

James Cooper and Nancy Agnes Wooddell were married at Green Bank on June 17, 1805. Since Nancy was still a minor, the marriage bond was made several days before the ceremony between James and her father, Joseph Wooddell. Green Bank was still part of Bath County at that time and thus the following bond is on file at the Bath County courthouse, Warm Springs, Virginia:

Know all men by these presents that we, James Cooper and Joseph Wooddell are held and firmly bound unto John Page esq. Governor of Virginia in the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars for the use of the Commonwealth to which payment will and truly to be made to the said Governor or his successors we bind ourselves our heirs executors & administrators jointly & severally firmly by these presents sealed with our Seals and dated this 11th day of June, 1805.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is shortly intended to be had and Solemnised a marriage between the above named James Cooper and Nancy Wooddell of this County, now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage then the above Obligation to be void else to remain in full force:

Signed and Acknow.^d
in presence of
Chs L Francisco

JAS COOPER
JOS WOODDELL

Seal

After their marriage, James and Nancy settled near her father's homestead on a stream which is now called Cooper Run, a branch of Deer Creek, at an approximate longitude of 79° 48' 30" and north latitude of 38° 26' 45". Over the years, James acquired considerable land. Some of the boundaries of their land were specified in a deed to their son, Joseph, made shortly before James' death in 1845:

This Deed was made and entered into this nineteenth day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred and forty five between James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia of the one part and Joseph W. Cooper of the County and State aforesaid of the other part, Witnesseth that the said James Cooper for and in the consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars to him in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by him the said James Cooper hath bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargain and sell unto the said Joseph W. Cooper and to his heirs and assigns forever the following certain tracts or parcels of land to wit: One tract containing one hundred and fifteen acres deeded to sd Cooper by Mr Lamb and Betsey his wife lying and being in the County of Pocahontas and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows: Beginning at 2 white Oaks corner to Solomon Conrad thence N. 60° W. 100 poles to 3 white Oaks corner to sd Conrad thence N. 73° W. 40 poles to a pitch pine or black pine S. 50° W. 54 poles to 3 black pines & Boon Tallmans line thence S. 7° W. 70 poles to a white Oak and hickory thence S. 60° E. 96 poles to 2 Birchies a branch S. 11° E. 36 poles to a pine and white oak on the top of a ridge thence S. 65° E. 100 poles to 2 Chestnuts thence N. 5° W. 109 poles to the Beginning:

Also an other tract containing seventy five acres deeded to sd Cooper by Mr. Marlick and James Tallman lying and being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Carters Creek a branch of Greenbrier River and bounded as follows Beginning at 2 maples and sugar trees S. 80° E. 36 poles to a white oak and ironwood thence N. 75° E. 40 poles to 2 maples on a ridge N. 60° E. 32 poles to 2 white oaks W. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 22° W. 53 poles to a white oak and hickory on the top of a hill E.

94 poles to 2 Beeches by a branch S. 11° E. 110 poles to a forked maple in a draft and down the same to N. 83° W. 60 poles to 2 ironwoods N. 84° W. 204 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract containing twenty acres adjoining the foregoing and Jacob Bible and bounded as follows to wit. Beginning at 2 ironwoods corner to Jacob Bible and the old tract thence S. 15° E. 30 poles to 2 pines on a hill Side S. 77° E. 88 poles to 2 white Oaks N. 25° E. 16 poles to a spruce pine N. 66° W. 26 poles to a Spruce pine N. 15° W. 20 poles to a pine and white oak thence leaving sd Bibles line N. 83° W. 70 poles to the Beginning.

Also another tract Containing Eighty acres deeded to sd Cooper & Jacob Dysart Thomas Lamb and his wife lying & being in the County and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek and bounded as follows to wit: Beginning at a Sugar Tree and maple corner to Wm. Lightner thence S. 88° E. 36 poles to a white oak and ironwood S. 75° E. 40 poles to 2 Maples on a ridge N. 62° E. 32 poles to 2 white oaks N. 72° E. 68 poles to a large white oak N. 28° W. 53 poles to a white Oak and hickory on a ridge N. 40° W. 58 poles to 2 white Oaks S. 72° W. 52 poles to white Oak S. 58° E. 14 poles to the Beginning on the other tract containing fifteen acres and adjoining the aforementioned tract and Deeded to sd Cooper by sd Dysart Lamb and wife.

Another tract Containing fifteen acres and Deeded to sd Cooper by James Tallman lying and being in the county and State aforesaid on the waters of Deer Creek adjoining the lands of Solomon Conrad, Patrick Bruffy, and Boon Tallman.

Together with the appertinances belonging to sd tracts or parcels of land to the sole use and behoof of him the sd Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever, and the said James Cooper for himself and his heirs doth covenant and agree with the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs, that the said James Cooper and his heirs the said parcels of land with all the appertinances thereunto belonging to the said Joseph W. Cooper and his heirs and assigns forever against the Claim of him the said James Cooper and his heirs and all and every other person or persons whatsoever will forever warrant and defend, in Witness Whereof the Said James Cooper hath hereunto Subscribed his name and affixed his seal this day and year above written.

Jas. Cooper Seal

Pocahontas County to wit—We Edward Ervine & Wm. Arbogast Justices of the peace in the County aforesaid in the State of Virginia do hereby Certify that James Cooper a part to a certain deed bearing date the 19th day of March 1845 and hereunto annexed personally appeared before us in our County aforesaid and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed and desired not to retract it and desired to certify the sd acknowledgment to the Clerk of the County Court of Pocahontas in order that sd deed may be recorded Given under our hands and Seals this 19th day of March in the year 1845.

Edward Ervine Seal

Wm. Arbogast Seal

James Cooper (1780-1845) & Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861) were the parents of nine children:

501 Elizabeth (Betsey) McKemy Cooper

Born May 21, 1806, Green Bank, W. Va.

Died May 8, 1845, Greenhill, Highland County, Va.

Place of burial not known.

Married April 4, 1844 to Samuel Woods

502 Melinda Cooper

Born December 21, 1808, Green Bank, W. Va.

Died 1894, Pocahontas County, W. Va.

Place of burial not known.

Unmarried

*503 James Harvey Cooper

Born July 30, 1810, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died December 8, 1881, near Tanner, Gilmer County, W. Va.
 Buried on his farm on Jessie Run, near Tanner, W. Va.
 Married March 8, 1836, Pocahontas County, to Julia Ann Whitman
 (born September 28, 1817, Anthony's Creek, Greenbrier County,
 W. Va.—died September 20, 1903, near Tanner W. V.—buried
 beside her husband), daughter of George Whitman, Senior.

504 Nancy B. Cooper

Born July 29, 1812, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died March 3, 1885, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Unmarried

505 John Thomas Cooper

Born November 28, 1814, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 9, 1878, Parkersburg, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married October 31, 1850, near Fairmont, W. Va., to Louisa Lirpin
 Linn (born February 15, 1825, Linn's Mills near Fairmont, W. Va.
 died February 11, 1916), daughter of Robert Linn III (1781-1834)
 & Catherine Lyon (1788-1856)

506 Margaret I. Cooper

Born February 11, 1819, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died January 25, 1895, Burnt House, Ritchie County, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married March 12, 1844, to Enoch R. Hill (born January 13, 1821—
 died August 6, 1896, Burnt House, W. Va.), son John Hill (1790-
 1885) & Keturah Cunningham (-).

507 Lucinda Cooper

Born March 1, 1821, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died May 27, 1886, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Buried Arbovale, Pocahontas County, W. Va.
 Married December 21, 1843, Green Bank, W. Va., to John Alexander
 Gillaspie (born December 22, 1815—died March 11, 1897, Green
 Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.).

508 Joseph William Cooper

Born April 18, 1823, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 29, 1898, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Buried Warwick Cemetery, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Married first 1847 to Rachel Tallman Sutton (born October 21, 1822—
 died July 12, 1863, Green Bank, W. Va.—buried Arbovale, W. Va.)
 Married second January 16, 1868, Bath County, Va., to Harriett A.
 Wade (born 1835—died about 1869), daughter of Henry S. Wade &
 F. Arbogast.
 Married third to Mary E. Arbogast (born 1845), daughter of Solomon
 Arbogast & Nancy Nottingham.

509 Eliza Virginia Cooper

Born September 30, 1810, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Died April 18, 1900, Green Bank, W. Va.
 Place of burial not known.
 Married November 30, 1849, to Andrew W. Kerr (born 1828).

During the period from 1800 to 1810, several lawsuits arose among the various members of the McKemy family and between some of the McKemys and the children

of James Cooper (-1781). These suits were engendered, apparently, because some of the McKemy uncles had purchased or managed the property of James Cooper (-1781) after adopting one or two of his children, then died intestate, which led to disputes between their own children and the adopted Cooper cousins. The records pertaining to these suits can be found in the Augusta County courthouse under "McKemy vs. McKemy—O.S. 147; N. S. 51—Bill, no date" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. 2, pages 127-128) and "Coopers Heirs vs. McKemy—O.S. 212; N. S. 75—Bill, May, 1809" (abstracted in Chalkley, Vol. II, page 167). Judging by the abstracts, these papers might contain information about the various Cooper-McKemy relationships, but I have not had an opportunity to visit the courthouse at Staunton. However, I do have a photostatic copy of a letter by James Cooper (1780-1845) to Mr. & Mrs. James McKemy, which was submitted as evidence in the Cooper-McKemy case cited above:

Dear Uncle & Aunt—These Comes to let you know that we are enjoying a Reasonable Degree of health at present and hope these may find you and your family in good health when they Come to your hand.

I have nothing material to inform you of at present only that I have Notify^d Andrew Kenady to attend at Staunton at Carbers Tavern on the first day of the September District Court in order to Settle the Bond I have of my fathers on him and his Brother James, I wrote him to have the Bond he said he had against my Father (that is if there is any in being) or to have the money to pay it or I should enter suit against him as I could give him no longer Indugence.

I have some thoughts of going to Tennessee State this fall if I possibly Can—and wish you if it lies in your power to get me some money as I shall stand in need of some to bear my expences—and also I want you or Some of you to be at Garbers on the day above mention^d to meet Kenaday to see if he will have the Bond or money or what he intends to do and you will much oblige your Affectiate Nephew.

Mr. James McKemy
N. B. please to write to Bearer

James Cooper
July the 31st 1806
Bath County

I have compared the handwriting of this letter, which is in the Cooper-McKemy case records in the courthouse at Staunton, with samples of James Cooper's handwriting in the Wooddell family papers and there is no question but that the James Cooper (1780-1845) of Green Bank was the son of the James Cooper (-1781) and Jean McKemy of Rockbridge County. Other evidence supports this relationship: the Wooddell papers contain a letter from James McKemy in which he mentions going to Lexington, county seat of Rockbridge, on business for James Cooper; the oldest child of James Cooper (1780-1845) was Elizabeth McKemy Cooper; approximate years of birth for James' older siblings, calculated from adoption and apprenticeship data in Chalkley (I, 273; I, 280), are consistent with James' known date of birth.

The above letter is also interesting because James mentions the possibility of visiting Tennessee. Though James was probably reared in the Mossy Creek area, he may have spent part of his early years in Tennessee; Chalkley's abstract of the Cooper-McKemy suit papers states: "James Cooper and others of the Cooper family moved to Tennessee." A thorough examination of the papers in the Staunton courthouse would probably reveal the basis for this statement. Some of the McKemy depositions in the two suits were from Knox County, Tennessee.

In addition to farming, James Cooper (1780-1845) also served as a Bath County constable for several years. As early as 1808, he carried out court orders, according to a document in the Wooddell family papers:

Bath County to wit—Whereas Charles Deneven in said County farmer hath personally come before me Sampson Hathens one of the Commonwealths Justices assigned to keep the peace in said County and hath taken a Corporal oath that

Page 6
he the Said Charles Doneven is afraid John McMahon in the Said County far-
mer and James McMahon the Said John McMahonson will beat him (wound main
kill or do him some bodily hurt) and hath therefore prayed surety of the
peace against him the Said John McMahon and James McMahon his son.

These are therefore on behalf and in the name of the Commonwealth to
Command you jointly and severally that immediately upon the receipt here of
you bring the Said John McMahon and James McMahon before me or some other
Justice of the peace for the said County of Bath to find surety as well for
his personal appearance at the next Court to be holden for the said County
as for their keeping the peace in the mean time towards Citizens of this
Commonwealth and chiefly towards the said Charles Doneven.

Given under my hand and seal in the said County the fifteenth day of
September one thousand Eight Hundred and Eight.

To James Cooper Constable

Sampson Mathews

Seal

To Execute and Return

James apparently continued as constable for many years, since Price (pages
100-101) states concerning the formation of Pocahontas County from Bath County:

Affairs having so far progressed, the formation of a new county was
mooted and due arrangements made. A resolution to that effect was passed by
the Virginia Legislature, March 1821 . . . One of the most memorable days
in the social and civil history of Pocahontas County was the 5th day of
March, 1822, when the first court was held . . . James Cooper was appointed
Constable for the Head of Greenbrier, with William Sleven and Samuel Hogsett
as bondsmen.

At his death in 1845, James was apparently still serving as constable, since
the men who served as his bondsmen had to settle obligations which he had not
settled before his death, according to a receipt in the Wooddell papers:

Recd 1 Dec 1846 of James Wooddell the acct of Patrick Bruffey Sheriff
of Pocahontas County for the sum of \$13.78 & also for the sum of \$9.08
money paid by the said James Wooddell as one of the securities of James
Cooper late Constable of Pocahontas County upon executions from the Super-
ior Court of law & els. for Pocahontas County in favour of the Gov. vs.
said Cooper & his securities—said acct is now placed in my hands for the
purpose of collecting the amt. thereof by suit of the estate of sd Cooper.
W. H. Terrill

James was a member of the Virginia militia, according to a document in the
Wooddell papers:

At a Regimental Court of Enquiry held for the 127 Regiment of Virginia
Militia at the House of John Bradshaws in the County of Pocahontas on the
26th day of November 1825.

Ordered that James Cooper Provost Martial to this Regiment be allowed
three Dollars per day for Attending one Regimental and two Battalion Courts
of enquiry during the Present year amounting in the whole to \$9.
Joseph Moore C.C.E.

Apparently militia allowances were paid from fine money collected by the
Sheriff, for on the reverse side of the above document is the following notation:

The Sheriff of Pocahontas County will pay the within sum of Nine Dol-
lars to James Cooper out of any money in his hands Arising from Militia
fines.

John Baxter Col. Comdt.

James also served as the local assessor and one of the receipts he gave to his brother-in-law is in the Wooddell papers: Page 7

1839—James Wooddell to the Com^r of the Revenue for Pocahontas County, In to Entering by Divise two tracts of land on the land list 98 & 40 Acres of land Devised by Joseph Wooddell.

Jas. Cooper Com^r Rev.

The year before his death, James prepared a will which was probated in December 1845 and can be found in Pocahontas County will book 2, page 265:

In the name of God Amen. I, James Cooper of the County of Pocahontas and State of Virginia being weak in body, but of sound mind and memory, and considering the mortality of the Human Body, and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make this my last Will & Testament, Revoking all others—First I Recommend my soul to God who gave it, my body to be Decently Buried in a Christian like manner, and after my Burial expenses are paid, and all my other just debts are punctually paid, I Will and Bequeath the Ballance of my property both real and personal in the form following:

First, I will and bequeath to my beloved Wife Nancy Cooper all my House hold and Kitchen Furniture except such as her Daughters has made and claims, also the controle of my House and House hold during her life time or Widowhood, her choise of two clocks, and my Family Bible during her life time, and then to be left to my Daughter Malinda, provided she out lives her mother the remainder of the Books to be equally divided between the ballance of the Heirs, I also will to my Wife Nancy Cooper, one Horse two cows and ten head of Sheep, and the Bees for the use of the Family, To my Daughter Betsy M. Cooper or her Heirs, I will and bequeath, one Sorrel Mare Saddle and Bridle, her equal proportion of Sheep, and one cow (exclusive of two cows that she claims as her own at this time), I also will and bequeath to my Daughter Malinda one Horse Saddle and Bridle one cow and her equal proportion of Sheep, also the same to my Daughter Nancy B., the same to my Daughter Margaret I., the same to my Daughter Lucinda, the same to my Daughter Eliza Virginia and to my son Joseph W. Cooper, I will and bequeath one bay colt one cow and his equal proportion of Sheep with his sisters, also my Rifle Gun & Shot Pouch, my Watch, and wearing apperl, also my Plantation with all its appertinances, including all the Farming Utentials and Wind Mill, during the Lifetime or Widowhood, of his mother or during the single sate of any of his Sister, Provided the above named J. W. Cooper maintains his Mother during her Life time or Widowhood and his Sisters or sister while they remain Single and wish to live on the Place with him, by them giving him what assistance they can towards their own support, and after the Death or Widowhood of my Beloved Wife, and after the marriage or death of all my single Daughters, the Plantation, is to be sold, Provided it brings what any three disinterested Free holders may say it is worth, the appraisors to be chosen by the Heirs living on the Plantation at that time, provided they can agree, if not, they are to be appointed by Court, and if my son J. W. Cooper complies with the above, He shall have two hundred dollars out of the price of sd. land and an equal Portion with his sisters, also all my interest in the Mountain Lands and Farming Utentials which is on or belonging to the Farm at that time exclusive of the Horse, Cows, Sheep, Gun, Watch and Cloaths, before mentioned, but if my son J. W. Cooper does not choose to maintain his mother and sisters as above mentioned, then my Beloved Wife is to have the Farm and Farming utentials during her life or widowhood for the benefit of her and her single daughters or in case of the death of her son J. W. Cooper while he is single, she is to have the same controle as if he should refuse to support her and her single daughters as above mentioned.—To my son James H. Cooper, I will and bequeath Fifty Dollars out of the price of said land when sold, by deducting the Principal, without its interest of a note which I hold on him out of sd. Fifty Dollars—I also Will and Bequeath to my son John T. Cooper Fifty Dollars out

of the price of sd. land when sold, and if sd. J. T. Cooper chooses he may have the surveyors Instruments at Thirty Dollars out of sd. Fifty Dollars and to have the same any time after my death.

Lastly: I constitute and Appoint my Beloved Wife Nancy Cooper and my son Joseph W. Cooper Executrix and Executor of this my last Will and Testament.

In Witness Whereof I have herewith set my hand and seal this Thirty first day of August Eighteen Hundred and forty four and 69th year of the Commonwealth.

WITNESSES PRESENT

Boone Tallman

John A. Gillaspie

Jacob Pible

Jas. Cooper

Seal

I do not know whether any of the objects mentioned in James' will, including the family Bible, are still in existence. I have had some correspondence with one of the descendants of Joseph William Cooper, but he does not know of anyone who has family heirlooms or papers. Since none of James' descendants now live in Green Bank, most of this material was probably destroyed or widely scattered when the various moves took place. Since Melinda, who never married, was living with her sister, Eliza Virginia Cooper Kerr, and family in 1870, according to the 1870 census, it may be that someone among the Andrew W. Kerr descendants has the family Bible and other objects.

James Cooper died on November 8, 1845. His son, Joseph William Cooper, operated the family farm and supported his mother until her death on November 29, 1861. During our brief visit to Green Bank in 1956, Mr. Hamed and I were unable to locate the graves of James and Nancy, but we did not have time to make extensive inquiries in the neighborhood or to search the old family homestead.

Price (pages 476-479) has written a sketch entitled "James Cooper", which I will reproduce in full, even though some of it duplicates my previous remarks, because Price's book is not easy to obtain, particularly outside West Virginia:

During most of the 19th century the Cooper name has been familiar in our region. James Cooper, the progenitor of the Cooper relationship, was a native of Augusta County, and was reared in the Mossy Creek section of that great County. Having married Nancy Agnes Wooddell, he came over with the Wooddells, very early in the settlement of the upper section of our county, and opened up property now (1900) owned by Robert H. Gun, near Greenbank, then known as Piney Woods. They were the parents of four sons and six daughters.

Elizabeth Cooper became Mrs. Woods, and settled at Greenhill, Highland County.

Margaret became Mrs. Enoch Hill and lived in Ritchie County. Her daughter Harriet became Mrs. Fling, and lived at Flag, Ohio. Nannie became another Mrs. Fling, and lived in Ritchie County.

James Cooper became Mrs. Andrew Kerr and lived near Dumore. Her daughter Nannie became Mrs. Washington Hoover; Anne, now Mrs. Raymer Davis, near Greenbank; Caroline, now Mrs. Gatewood Sutton, at Durbin. Her son William Kerr in Pocahontas, and John Kerr lives in Lewis County.

Melinda Cooper became Mrs. John Alexander Gillespie, late of Greenbank. Her children were Taylor, Amos, and Wise, the three sons. Her daughters were Nancy, who became Mrs. George Beverage; Rachel, now Mrs. Henry Sheets, near Dumore; Margaret, now Mrs. John L. Hudson, near Louisa, Mary now Mrs. George Sheets, and Martha.

Nancy and Melinda are the names of James Cooper's other two daughters. Thomas Cooper died in youth.

John T. Cooper married in Marion County. He was a popular physician.

Cooper, McKamy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell,
Gothard, Wilson, & Patton Families

of

Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia

York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania

Blount, Knox, & Roane counties, Tennessee

Pocahontas, Gilmer, & Ritchie counties, West Virginia

Wayne County, Kentucky

Vigo & Sullivan counties, Indiana

York County, South Carolina

by

Harold C. Cooper
115 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601

January 1, 1969

Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton

Our family is preparing a Cooper & McKemy family record and would appreciate information concerning the Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton families discussed below.

James Cooper (died 1781) & wife Jean McKemy

We are especially interested in information about James Cooper (died 1781) and Jean McKemy, his wife, who lived in Augusta County & Rockbridge County, Virginia, where James died in 1781. The will and estate records of James Cooper mention four children:

1. John Cooper

Born about 1771-1772. Apprenticed as a tailor, 1785-1789, and followed the tailoring trade for several years afterward. We have documentary evidence that he was living in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1801 and 1807, but no information as to whether he settled there permanently or married and had children.

2. Nancy Agnes Cooper

Born about 1775. Married after 1795 to William Gothard; settled in Georgia (where?); and had at least one son, John Cooper Gothard. Nancy Agnes died before 1809 and her brothers lost contact with her husband and son.

3. Thomas Cooper

Born about 1777. Adopted in 1793 by his uncle, James McKemy. Married March 7, 1798, Augusta County, Virginia, to Elizabeth Wilson, daughter of Robert Wilson. No further record of Thomas & Elizabeth.

4. James Cooper (1780-1845)

Born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, in 1780; settled at Green Bank, formerly Bath County, Virginia, now Pocahontas County, West Virginia, about 1802; and died at Green Bank in 1845. Married in 1805 to Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861), daughter of Lt. Joseph Wooddell (1752-1834) of Green Bank. James & Nancy were my great-great-grandparents. I have considerable information about them and their children which I would be happy to share.

We have no further information about James Cooper (died 1781) and would particularly like to know the names of his parents. We also would like to know more about John, Nancy Agnes, and Thomas: their dates and places of birth, marriage, and death; their spouses and children; and where they settled.

McKemy & Ferrell/Farrell

Jean McKemy was the daughter of John McKemy (died 1789) of Augusta County, Virginia. Her brother, James McKemy (born 1753), settled in Blount County, Tennessee, about 1787-1792 and applied for his Revolutionary War pension there in 1832. After the death of her first husband, James Cooper (died 1781), Jean married again, during 1781-1787, to a Mr. Ferrell or Farrell. We do not know the given name of Mr. Ferrell(Farrell), but suspect that he was the John Ferrell who purchased several items when the estate of James Cooper was sold in 1783.

Mr. Ferrell and Jean have not been found in all the records we have searched. The only two possibilities, neither confirmed, have been:

1. Wilkes County, Georgia, Deed Book MH, page 110, records that a John Ferrell and wife Jean sold 200 acres on Fishing Creek to William Low in 1790. We have no evidence that this John & Jean are our Ferrells

and would welcome any information you may have which would prove that they are or are not our people.

2. The third wife of James Ferrell (1732-1808) of Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Lunenburg, and Halifax counties, Virginia, was named either Jean or Jane. We have no evidence that his Jean or Jane was our Jean and would appreciate any information you may have about them.

We would certainly be grateful for any data you may have about Jean and Mr. Ferrell/Farrell. Except for the two possibilities mentioned above, they seem to have "disappeared" from the records!

William Cooper (died about 1796) of Pennsylvania

William Cooper of York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania, died about 1796. His daughter Eleanor married a McKemy and we suspect--but cannot prove--that William Cooper (died about 1796) was related in some way to James Cooper (died 1781) of Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia. We think that William Cooper lived in what is now the Mount Pleasant Township of Adams County, but have not located his grave. From Virginia courthouse and personal records--we have not searched Pennsylvania records--we know that William Cooper was married at least twice (but not the names of his wives) and had at least five children (but not the order of their births):

1. James Cooper
Lived in York County, Pennsylvania. Died during 1796-1807. Had business relations with a man named Archer of Guilford County, North Carolina.
2. William Cooper
Living in 1808, but we do not know where.
3. John Cooper
No data on him, unless he was the John Cooper in Roane County, Tennessee, in 1854.
4. Eleanor Cooper
Married John McKemy (died about 1793), brother of my great-great-great-grandmother, Jean McKemy, wife of James Cooper (died 1781) and Mr. Ferrell/Farrell. Eleanor & John settled in Augusta County, Virginia.
5. Mary (Polly) Cooper
Married Jacob Patton. Settled in Knox County, Tennessee.

If you have information about William Cooper (died about 1796) of York & Adams counties, Pennsylvania, particularly whether he was related to James Cooper (died 1781) of Augusta & Rockbridge counties, Virginia, we would certainly like to hear from you.

Final Note

Thank you very much for any help you may be able to give us. We want to share any Cooper, McKemy, Ferrell/Farrell, Wooddell, Gothard, Wilson, & Patton data with you. If I ever move, my current address can be obtained from the Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or Alumni Records, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

January 1, 1969

Homer C. Cooper
145 Pendleton Drive
Athens, Georgia 30601

We have additional Cooper and McKemy information, relevant for our search but not easily placed within the context of our presentation above, which is presented below, followed by comments and questions:

In 1775, James Cooper (died about 1781) sold a mare for thirty pounds to Thomas Cooper.

"June ye 4th 1777. Then Recd. of James Cooper the Sum of Six pounds part of the money which William Cooper sent by Isaac Taylor from fort Randolph per mo.

his
Richard X Magee
mark

WHERE WAS FORT RANDOLPH LOCATED?

No date, but presumably during 1772-1779: James Cooper (died 1781) paid the debts of a John Cooper to Andrew McCampbell, George Reeve, James Young, Mary Kinkum, and Joseph Shanks.

In 1779, James Davies and wife Mary of Rockbridge County sold to Thomas Cooper of Rockbridge County, for 200 pounds, 102 acres on the forks of James River in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

In 1779, William McKemy and wife Ann of Rockbridge County sold to John Cooper of Rockbridge County, for 22 pounds, 90 acres on Kerrs Creek. Witnesses: James Cooper, William McCampbell, & William McMath.

In 1782, the inventory and appraisement of the estate of James Cooper (died 1781) included two Bibles. When the estate was sold in 1783, these Bibles were not included in the sale. WHERE ARE THESE BIBLES TODAY? They may have important birth, marriage, and death data.

In the hand of John McKemy, undated but presumably about 1783: a piece of paper headed "The Estate of James Cooper Decd. To Thos. Cooper." The first item under the heading reads: "To Cash paid to John Gilmore for Wm Cooper to order of Jas. Cooper."

In 1785, a piece of paper, the face side of which reads:

Gentlemen—If any of you can Spare Some Cattle to Mr. Robert Rush let him have them upon my Acct. and take his Rct. for the Value he Receives them at and I will Give you Credit on your Bonds for the Same for I Owe him and cannot Get the money for him, and he agrees to take Some Cattle in part for what I Owe him. yr. Compliance will Oblidge Gentln. yr. Hum. Servt.

Sept. 12th 1785

John McKemy

To Messrs. John Cooper, Thomas Cooper,
Joseph Thompson & Alexander McKemy

On the reverse side of this same piece of paper are two additional statements, the first of which is:

State of Tennessee // This day Isabella Cooper Came before us
Blount County John Tedford and William Gault two of the
Justices of the peace of said County and made oath that the five
pounds fifteen Shillings Received for here is part of an arbitration
between John & James McKemy Executors for the Estate of James Cooper
Decd. and Thomas Cooper

John Tedford
William Gault

The second of the two statements on the reverse side reads:

September the 14 1785--Received of Thomas Cooper five pounds fifteen shillings. Recd. by me

Robert Rusk

During 1787-1795, a John Ferrell of Knox County & Hawkins County, Tennessee, was grantee for several parcels of land recorded in Knox County deed books, including a grant by the State of North Carolina ("Copied from Book B, Page 89, Grant 275"). WAS THIS JOHN FERRELL THE SECOND HUSBAND OF JEAN MCKEMY, WIDOW OF JAMES COOPER (died 1781)?

On September 20, 1785, in Augusta County, Virginia, John Cooper, "Son to James Cooper Decd. . . . and By the Consent of his Guardian John McKemy," was apprenticed to Thomas Hinds, a tailor. The indenture was witnessed by Benjamin Norton, John Middleton, and Eleanor Cooper.

In 1792, Thomas Cooper and wife Isabella of Rockbridge County sold to John Wilson, for 100 pounds, 100 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

In 1796, John Cooper and wife Agnes of Rockbridge County sold to Robert Piper, for 100 pounds, 90 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia.

Undated, in the hand of John McKemy: a paper headed "Thomas Cooper dr. To Jas. Cooper Estate" includes "To Cash paid When Going to Pitts Burgh, five pounds" and "To 1 Journey to Pennsylvania, three pounds ten shillings." WHAT RELATIVES DID THOMAS COOPER (born about 1777) HAVE IN PITTSBURGH AND PENNSYLVANIA?

In 1801, John Cooper ("heir to William Cooper, deceased") of Rockbridge County, Andrew Graham and wife Elizabeth ("mother to said heir") of Rockbridge County, and William Youel of Augusta County sold to George Wilson, for 300 pounds, 240 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia, on Little Calf Pasture River.

In 1811, in Blount County, Tennessee, Isabella Cooper and Agness Townsley answered questions, under oath, concerning when and how long John Cooper (born about 1771) had lived in the household of his uncle, John McKemy, after the death of his father, James Cooper (died 1781). Apparently John Cooper lived in the McKemy household until June 1784.

In 1814, a William Gothard was a grantee in Knox County, Tennessee, deeds and in 1815 a William Goddard & Jane S. Campbell were married in Knox County. WAS HE THE WILLIAM GOTHARD WHO WAS THE HUSBAND OF NANCY AGNES COOPER (born about 1775; died before 1809), daughter of James Cooper (died 1781)?

Comments and Questions

The information above raises many issues which are relevant for our search for Cooper and McKemy relationships.

Unfortunately, we have not had an opportunity to search for the William Cooper (died about 1796) estate records in Adams & York counties in Pennsylvania, which might clarify many of the relationships among persons presented above. From the 1775, 1777, 1772-1779, and 1779 data above, we conclude that James Cooper (died 1781) had not only sons named John, Thomas, and James (who were either not born or too young to have been involved in those early transactions) but also other relatives, probably the William Cooper family of Adams & York counties, by those given names.

The 1801 Rockbridge County data suggest that a William Cooper (dead by 1801)

January 1, 1907

had a son John and apparently a widow Elizabeth whose second husband was Andrew Graham. WAS THIS WILLIAM COOPER OUR WILLIAM COOPER (died about 1796) OF ADAMS AND YORK COUNTIES, PENNSYLVANIA? If yes, DID WILLIAM DIE IN ROCK-BRIDGE OR AUGUSTA COUNTY RATHER THAN ADAMS OR YORK COUNTY?

Apparently Thomas Cooper (born about 1777) was living in Blount County, Tennessee, in 1785, at which time he was about eight years old and the ward of Isabella Cooper. HOW WAS ISABELLA RELATED TO THOMAS AND TO HIS FATHER, JAMES COOPER (died 1781)? WAS ISABELLA COOPER OF BLOUNT COUNTY IN 1785 and 1811 THE SAME ISABELLA COOPER WHO WAS THE WIFE OF A THOMAS COOPER IN ROCK-BRIDGE COUNTY IN 1792? If yes, HOW WAS HER HUSBAND THOMAS RELATED TO HER HUSBAND, THOMAS COOPER (born about 1777)?

HOW--if at all--WAS AGNES TOWNSLY--in Blount County in 1811--RELATED TO THE COOPER AND MCKEMY FAMILIES?

In 1785, an Eleanor Cooper witnessed the indenture of John Cooper (born about 1771), son of James Cooper (died 1781) and ward of John McKemy. WAS SHE THE ELEANOR COOPER WHO MARRIED JOHN MCKEMY AND SURVIVED HIM? If yes, WAS THIS MARRIAGE A SECOND MARRIAGE FOR JOHN MCKEMY?

Thank you very much for your help. We are grateful for your assistance.

Homer C. Cooper

145 Pendleton Drive

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Any change in my address can be obtained from the Alumni Office, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, or Alumni Records, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. I would be happy to hear from Cooper & McKemy families at any time!

My cousins and I are descended from James Cooper (1780-1845), youngest child of James & Jean, and wife Nancy Agnes Wooddell (1785-1861) of Green Bank, Pocahontas County, West Virginia. James & Nancy had nine children: (1) Elisabeth McKemy Cooper (1806-1845), married 1844 to Samuel Woods; settled at Greenhill, Highland County, Virginia. (2) Melinda Cooper (1808-1894), never married; lived in Pocahontas County, West Virginia. (3) James Harvey Cooper (1810-1881), married 1836 to Julia Ann Whitman (1817-1903); settled near Tanner, Gilmer County, West Virginia; their son, Charles Slavens Cooper (1844-1921), was my grandfather. (4) Nancy B. Cooper (1812-1885), never married; lived in Pocahontas County. (5) John Thomas Cooper (1814-1878), married 1850 to Louisa Lirpin Linn (1825-1916); settled at Parkersburg, West Virginia. (6) Margaret I. Cooper (1819-1895), married 1844 to Enoch R. Hill (1821-1896); settled at Burnt House, Ritchie County, West Virginia. (7) William Cooper (1821-1886), married 1843 to John Alexander Gillaspie (1815-1877); settled at Arbovale in Pocahontas County. (8) Joseph William Cooper (1823-1878), married 1st 1847 to Rachel Tallman Sutton (1822-1863); married 2nd 1848 to Harriett A. Wade (1835-1869?); married 3rd 1869 to Mary E. Arboquest (born 1845); settled at Green Bank in Pocahontas County. (9) Eliza Virginia Cooper (1825-1900), married 1849 to Andrew W. Kerr (born 1828); settled at Dumore in Pocahontas County.

If you have old Cooper, McKemy, or Wooddell records, such as letters, Bibles, deeds, etc., concerning any of these families, I would certainly be grateful if you would write to me.

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Since preparing the above statement, I have learned from two other Cooper searchers, to whom I am much indebted, that Wayne County, Kentucky, and Vigo & Sullivan counties, Indiana, are relevant:

1. Frederick Cooper was born in 1759 in York County, Pennsylvania, from which county he first served in the Revolution; in 1780, he moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, where he served again; and in 1799 moved to Wayne County, Kentucky. Frederick Cooper (1759-) married in 1783 to Dorothy Brown, by whom he had the following children (with years of birth): Katy, 1784; Anne, 1786; Henry, 1790; John, 1793; William, 1795; Abraham, 1798; Isaac, 1805; and Jacob, 1808. WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF FREDERICK COOPER?

2. James Cooper and wife Mary Werr were living in Blount County, Tennessee, when their son, Alexander Cooper, was born in 1817. In 1823, the family moved to Sullivan County, Indiana; in 1824, they moved to Vigo County, Indiana, where both James & Mary died in 1855. Alexander Cooper married Elizabeth McGriff in 1842, was a member of the Christian Church, and served two terms as county surveyor in Vigo County. WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF JAMES COOPER (died 1855)? WHEN AND WHERE WAS JAMES BORN? DID JAMES AND MARY HAVE OTHER CHILDREN?

Several other miscellaneous notes seem worthy of inclusion in our summary of Cooper & McKemy families:

3. In 1795, James Cooper and wife Hannah of York County, Pennsylvania, conveyed to John McKemy of Augusta County, Virginia, for 110 pounds, 110 acres on both sides of the North River of "Shenando" in Augusta County. Witnesses: William McKemy, Eleanor McKemy, William Walker, Jr. WAS THIS JAMES COOPER THE JAMES COOPER (died during 1796-1807) WHO WAS A SON OF WILLIAM COOPER (died about 1796) OF PENNSYLVANIA?

Also, the Evergreen Cemetery, Gettysburg, Adams County, Pennsylvania, contains the graves of a Hannah Cooper (1756-1822), Thomas J. Cooper (1797-1875) and wives Margaret & Elizabeth, and Martha Toot Cooper (1818-1871). WAS HANNAH COOPER THE WIFE OF JAMES COOPER?

4. According to a history of Pocahontas County, West Virginia, John Bradshaw (1758-1834) "married Miss Nancy McKemie, in the vicinity of Parnassus," before moving from Augusta County to Pocahontas County. WAS NANCY'S FULL NAME NANCY AGNES McKEMY? WAS SHE THE DAUGHTER AGNES MENTIONED IN THE WILL OF JOHN McKEMY (died 1789) OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, WHO ALSO MENTIONED A GRANDSON, JOHN BRADSHAW, IN HIS WILL?

5. The will of James McKemy, Sr., written in 1817 and probated in 1818 in Augusta County, Virginia, left to wife Agnes and the following children: James McKemy (who inherited his father's plantation), Jane McKemy ("one half of My Greenbrier plantation, consisting of more than Three Hundred acres"), Nancy Maghead, John McKemy, and Hiram. One clause states:

Again as to the law suit respecting the Negrows now depending in the state of N. Carolina, should the result prove favorable my will is that my son, James, should satisfy himself for his Tr. divide the Ballance equally among all

WHAT NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY WAS THE SITE OF THE SUIT?

6. The Old Providence Church cemetery in Rockbridge County, Virginia, contains these four graves, lying consecutively in the same row: Robert Cooper (1738-1816); Susanna Cooper (1742-1817); John Cooper, died March 1, 1828, 57th year; and Margaret Cooper (1774-1847). I assume that John was the son of Robert & Susanna but, on the other hand, COULD HE HAVE BEEN THE JOHN COOPER (born about 1771) WHO WAS THE SON OF JAMES COOPER (died 1781)? Two other Cooper graves, some distance away, are in the cemetery: Susan A. H. Cooper (1778-1838), wife of Joseph Cooper; and Robert Cooper (1805-1840).

7. I have an incomplete note about a John Cooper who was born in 1777, Rockbridge County, Virginia; died 1861, Blendon, Ohio; served in the War of 1812; and married Polly Craig. WHOSE SON WAS HE?

A generous and keen-eyed friend found a connection between Cooper families in York County, Pennsylvania, and York County, South Carolina:

8. The will of a John Cooper, written in 1812, probated 1824 (place not determined), mentions the estate of his deceased father (not named in the will) in York County, Pennsylvania. John also names wife Elizabeth and children: Margaret, Robert, Elizabeth Davidson, William, John, and Mary Wallace. WHO WAS THE FATHER OF THIS JOHN COOPER?

This family is found again in the will of Robert Cooper, probated in 1842 in York County, South Carolina. Since his wife Mary predeceased, Robert left his estate to: John Cooper, a brother in Kentucky; James Cooper, a brother in Georgia; William Cooper, a brother in Tennessee; Mary Wallace, a sister in Virginia; Elizabeth Davidson, a sister in Yorkville, South Carolina, to have the plantation where Peter Harris lives; niece Jane Ferguson of Kentucky, daughter of brother John; niece Elizabeth Powell of Virginia, daughter of sister Mary Wallace; niece Mary Eliza Alston and her two children of South Carolina; nephews Robert Cooper and John Cooper of Tennessee, sons of brother William. Mentions his plantation in York County, South Carolina, "where Stephen Belk lives."

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